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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy RABAT

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : 2 FSM 481.4

DESP. NO.

October 13, 1958

DATE

OCT 15 1958

9 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	OTHER
	10-4	RM/R-2 IRC-8 AF-5 PER-2 IES-5
	10-18-58	CIA-12 HEW-5 USIA-10 ARMY-3 NAVY-3 AIR-3

SUBJECT: Public Health Service/Foreign Quarantine: Moroccan Regulations

The Embassy has been informed by the Ministry of Public Health of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco that the following quarantine regulations apply in Morocco:

1. The Kingdom of Morocco adheres, without reservation, to the INTERNATIONAL SANITARY REGULATIONS No. 2 adopted by the Fourth World Health Assembly in 1951 and amended by the Eighth and the Ninth World Health Assemblies in 1955 and 1956 respectively.

2. There are no other stipulations.

3. Insofar as vaccination requirements are concerned, they are as follows:

Against smallpox: - Recommended for travelers from all countries.
- Obligatory for travelers from infected areas.

Against cholera: - Obligatory for travelers from infected areas.

Against yellow-fever: - No vaccination certificate required.

The regulations described above may be obtained from the United Nations Organization, New York and/ or from outlets in other American cities authorized to sell United Nations documents.

For the Ambassador:

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

OCT 22 1958

Alfred T. Wellborn
Counselor of Embassy

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS

PSebastian: ew
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OCT 21 1958

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

871.55/10-1358

DMS

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

Amembassy RABAT

437
DESP. NO.

April 27, 1959

DATE

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : CA-8877 of April 15, 1959

APR 29 1959

9 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION *****	DEPT.
	IO-4	RM/R-2 IRC-8 AF-5 H-2 P-5 5/10-1
	REC'D	IN F OTHER
	5-9-59	O CIA-10 HEW-5

SUBJECT: Data on Voluntary Contributions for Health Programs

Transmitted with this despatch is a letter from the Ambassador to Senator Humphrey furnishing the information requested in the referenced instruction.

For the Ambassador:

Alfred T. Wellborn
Alfred T. Wellborn
Counselor of Embassy

File - Enclosure to this despatch

Enclosure:

Transmitted to Sen. Humphrey by letter drafted 5/14/59
att. DES - HEW - Security
Letter to Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (original and ~~five~~ ⁴ copies).

JECunningham/111

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MAY 2 1959

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BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS

MAY 13 1959

Mr. Dotson, REP, 300 - SA-12, Sept. 17, 1957.

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31

Action

IO
Info

RMR

AF

FROM: Rabat

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1831, April 30.

Reference Circular 1241, April 29.

Reply submitted by despatch 437 of April 27.

ROW/7

YOST

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Control:

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Rec'd:

April 30, 1959
11 a.m.

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871.55/4-3059

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871.55/9-1559

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, RABAT, MOROCCO

111
XOX X2
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

September 15, 1959.
DATE

REF : CERP, Morocco, B-IV-B-1 and 2.

SEP 18 1959

9 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	IN F OTHER
	HEW-5	Ref-1 IRC-8 IO-4 PER-2 IES-5
	9-26-59	ARMY-4 CIA-10 USIA-10 ARMY-3 NAVY-

SUBJECT: Health Personnel and Facilities in Morocco - 1959

AIR-

The following data on health personnel and facilities have been supplied the Embassy by the Moroccan Ministry of Health and other sources. These statistics, referring to the situation as of January 1, 1959 have not been published.

I. - Personnel Number

	<u>Public Health</u>	<u>Private</u>
Doctors	458	569
Nurses (+)	2,290	205
Auxiliary personnel	820	
Technicians and medical inspectors	none	
Pharmacists	18	378 (+++)
Dentists (++)	-	159 (+++)
Midwives (++)	-	99 (+++)

(+) Not broken down by sex; mostly female.

(++) Private only; no data given on those in public employ.

(+++ As of January 1, 1958.

II. - Facilities

1. - Medical establishments:

General hospitals (including 2 autonomous)	18
Tuberculosis hospitals and sanatoria (plus one tuberculosis section in each general hospital)	7
Ophthalmological hospitals	5
Mental hospitals (plus one section in each general hospital)	2
Maternity centers	11
Cancer hospitals (plus one section in each general hospital)	1

OCT 15 1959

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871.55/9-1559

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JWC: [Signature]
JWC: [Signature]
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Page 2 of

Encl. No.

Desp. No. ~~101~~ **111**

From Rabat, Morocco

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 2. - Rural dispensaries and consultation wards | 320 |
| 3. - Urban dispensaries | 64 |
| Urban consultation wards | 29 |
| Urban medico-social centers (sanitary education) | 42 |
| 4. - Number of beds in hospital facilities of all types: | 18,156 |

Number of private clinics in the former French Zone of Morocco as of January 1, 1958: 46.

com Ref. Hbu

Embassy Despatch 361 of March 13, 1959 transmitted a Trade List entitled "Hospitals - Morocco" and contains information on hospitals, dispensaries and homes for the aged in somewhat more detail than the information contained in this despatch.

For the Ambassador:



David G. Nes
Counselor of Embassy

cc: Casablanca, Tangier

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RW

AIR POUCH

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

871.55/10-2059
XR 024.971

FROM : Ambassador RABAT

151
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

October 20, 1959
DATE

REF :

OCT 21 1959

15 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	OTHER
	HEW-5	REP-1 IRC-8 IC-4 AF-5
	10/27	CIA-10 USA-10 NAVY-3

SUBJECT: Request for Publications on Toxicity of Edible Oils

As reported by the Embassy, there was a recent outbreak of illness in the Meknes area, with the symptoms being chiefly paralysis of the limbs. The cause was a mystery at first, but it now seems that the attacks were caused by consumption of an edible oil which had been adulterated with a mineral oil having toxic qualities. Two dealers in the edible oil have been arrested.

Dr. Abdelmalek FARRAJ, formerly Moroccan Minister of Public Health, and now Director of the National Institute of Hygiene, is working on this problem, and has requested Embassy assistance in obtaining documentation on toxicity of oils. He has given the attached list of publications to the Embassy. It is realized that the list is rather long and that there may be no convenient means of obtaining all or part of the publications. In view of Dr. Farraj's position, however, it would be appreciated if any of those publications which are readily available could be airpouched to the Embassy for transmission to Dr. Farraj. If any are available in French, that language would be preferable.

For the Ambassador:

David G. Nes
David G. Nes
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure: *all*

List of Publications

cc: Amcogen Casablanca
Amcogen TangierFILED
NOV 18 1959ECON: DVCatlett:st
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871.55/10-2059

FWS

Toxicology of a Triaryl Phosphate Oil

(reference: 79/251)

1. Smith, M. I., and Elvove, E.: Pharmacological and Chemical Studies of the Cause of So-Called Ginger Paralysis, Pub. Health Rep. 45: 1703, 1930.

(x) voir page "2" (art. 2 et 4)

6. Smith, M.I., and Lillie, R.D.: The Histopathology of Triorthocresyl Phosphate Poisoning: The Etiology of So-Called Ginger Paralysis (Third Report), Arch. Neurol & Psychiat. 26: 976, 1931.
7. Barnes, J. H., and Denz, F.A.: Experimental Demyelination with Organo-phosphorus Compounds, J. Path. & Bact. 65: 597, 1953.
9. Hottinger, A., and Bloch, H.: About the Specificity of Choline-Esterase-Inhibition by tri-o-Cresylphosphate, Helvet. Chim. acta 26: 142, 1943.
10. Bloch, H.: About the Specificity of Inhibitors by Esterase-Inhibition by Tri-o-Cresyl-Phosphate, Helvet. Chim. acta 26: 733, 1943.
12. Earl, C.J., and Thompson R.H.S.: Inhibitory Action of Tri-Ortho-Cresyl Phosphate on Cholinesterases, Brit. J. Pharmacol. 7: 261, 1952.
13. Aldridge, W.N.: Tricresyl Phosphates and Cholinesterase, Biochem. J. 56: 135, 1954.
14. Carpenter, H.M.; Jenden, D.J.; Schulman, H.R., and Tureman, J.R.: The Toxicology of Cellulube 220: III. Experimental Toxicology Naval Medical Research Institute Project. NM 055 054.01.01.14, 725, Oct. 22, 1956.
15. Nelson, H.: II. The Toxicity of Tricresyl Phosphates, II. BULL. 10: 138, 1950
18. Baldridge, H.D.; Jenden, D.J.; Knight, C.E.; Prezioso, T.J., and Tureman, J.R.: The Toxicology of Cellulube 220: V. Human Exposure under Operational Conditions, Naval Medical Research Institute Project NM 005 054.01.04.15, 701, Nov. 8, 1957
19. Smith, M.I.; Engel, E.W. and Stohlman, E.F.: Further Studies on the Pharmacology of certain Phenol Esters with Special Reference to the Relation of Chemical Constitution and Physiologic Action, Nat. Instit. Health Bull. No. 160, 1932
21. Hodge, H.C., and Sterner, J.A. Skin Absorption of Triorthocresyl Phosphate as Shown by Radioactive Phosphorus, J. Pharmacol & Exper. Therap. 79: 225, 1943.

23. Pinkerton, H.: Reaction to Oils and Fats in Lung, Arch. Path 5: 380, 1923.
25. Goettsch, M., and Pappenheimer, A.M.: Nutritional Muscular Dystrophy in the Guinea Pig and Rabbit, J. Exper. Med. 54: 145, 1931.
27. Pappenheimer, A.M.: Muscular Disorders Associated with Deficiency of Vitamin E, Physiol. Rev. 23: 27, 1943.
28. Luttrell, C.W., and Mason, K.E.: Vitamin E. Deficiency, Dietary Fat, and Spinal Cord Lesions in Rat, Ann. New York Acad. Sc. 52: 113 1949.
29. Bloch, E.: The Effect of Vitamin E. Deficiency on the Activity of Cholinesterase, Helvet. chim. acta 25: 793, 1942.
- (x)- 2. Bidstrup, P.L. and Bonnell, J.A.: anti-cholinesterases: Paralysis Following Poisoning by cholinesterase Inhibitors, Chemistry & Industry, 1954, p. 674.
- (x) 4.- Mine, C.H.; Dunlap, H.K.; Rice, E.S.; Coursoy, H.F.; Gross, R.H. and Anderson, H.H.: The Neurotoxicity and Anticholinesterase Properties of Some Substituted Phenyl Phosphates, J. Pharmacol. & Exper. Therap. 116: 227, 1956.

(References - page 39/261)

- 2.- Friess, S.L.; Jenden, D.J., and Tureman, J.R.: The Toxicology of a Tri-aryl Phosphate Oil: IV. A Batch Uniformity Test for Toxicology Naval Medical Research Institute Project. NM 005 054.01.03, Feb. 15, 1957

Les rapports et observations de messieurs: Harry L. CARPENTER, M.D.; DONALD J. JENDEN, M. D.; H. RAPHAEL SHULMAN, M.D., and JAMES A. TUREMAN, M.D., DETMERSDA, Md.
NAVAL MEDICAL:

Received for publication Dec. 4, 1958.

From the Naval Medical Research Institute, National Naval Medical Center (14)

eld

1332

DEPARTMENT OF STATE INSTRUCTION

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1332

(Security Classification)

FOR RM/R USE ONLY

NO.: A-72, December 17, 1959,

SUBJECT: Toxic Oils

TO: The American Embassy, RABAT.

Reference is made to the Embassy's despatch No. 151, dated October 20, 1959, requesting certain publications on the toxicity of edible oils. Enclosed are photo copies and microfilms of 28 of the 29 articles. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare sent the following memorandum when transmitting the publications:

"Attached for transmission are photo copies and microfilms of the articles cited in the above-mentioned Despatch. Copies of 28 of the 29 articles named are provided. Item (x)-2, an article by Bidstrup and Bonnell, mentioned on page 2 of the Despatch has not yet been located. You will note that two of the articles bear the classification "Official Use Only." These are Item 18 and Item 2. If copies of any additional publications are needed we shall be pleased to provide them."

DILLON (ACTING)

Enclosures: (DS-1019 attached by RMR-C eld)

Photo Copies and
Microfilms.

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DRAFTED BY: IO:OES:EFChas hmb 12-15-59

APPROVED BY: OES-Mr. Mulliken

CLEARANCES:

AFN-Mr. Stokes

PHS/INH: Dr. Osborne

S/S-CR

DEC 17 1959 A.M.

871.55/10-2059
XR 024.971

871.55/10-2059

871.55/10-2059

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy RABAT

183

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

November 6, 1959

DATE

REF : Embdes 178, November 5, 1959

NOV 9 1959

9 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	OTHER
	HEW-2	Ref -1 IO-4 INC-8 PER-2 LES-5
	11-13-59	ARMY-4 CIA-10 USSIA-10 ARMY-3 NAVY-

SUBJECT: Crimes Against the Health of the Nation to be Punishable by Death

The Bulletin Officiel (No. 2453) of October 30, 1959 carries dahir No. 1-59-380 dated October 29, 1959 the substantive portions of which read as follows:

Art. 1. Persons who deliberately (sciemment) manufacture, hold for commercial purposes, distribute, place on sale or sell products or edibles for human consumption which endanger the public health shall be put to death.

Art. 2. The crimes defined above shall be punished even if committed before the date of this dahir.

Comment: The press has just (November 5) announced the arrest of persons suspected of having marketed a product as cooking oil which, when consumed, caused severe food poisoning including paralysis of the lower members for extended periods of time.

The first cases of intoxication appeared on Mouloud (mid-September) in Meknes and it rapidly became apparent that a major public health catastrophe was in the making. Cases have since appeared in other parts of Morocco and the authorities say that about 10,000 people have already been poisoned.

It is interesting to note in this connection that however serious the crime, the authorities have not hesitated to use ex-post-facto legislation in order to enable them to satisfy popular resentment with capital punishment.

For the Ambassador:



Don V. Catlett

Counselor of Embassy for Economic Affairs

POL:PSebastian:ja
REPORTER

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871.55/11-359

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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☐ CHARGE TO

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1959 NOV 17 PM 6 23

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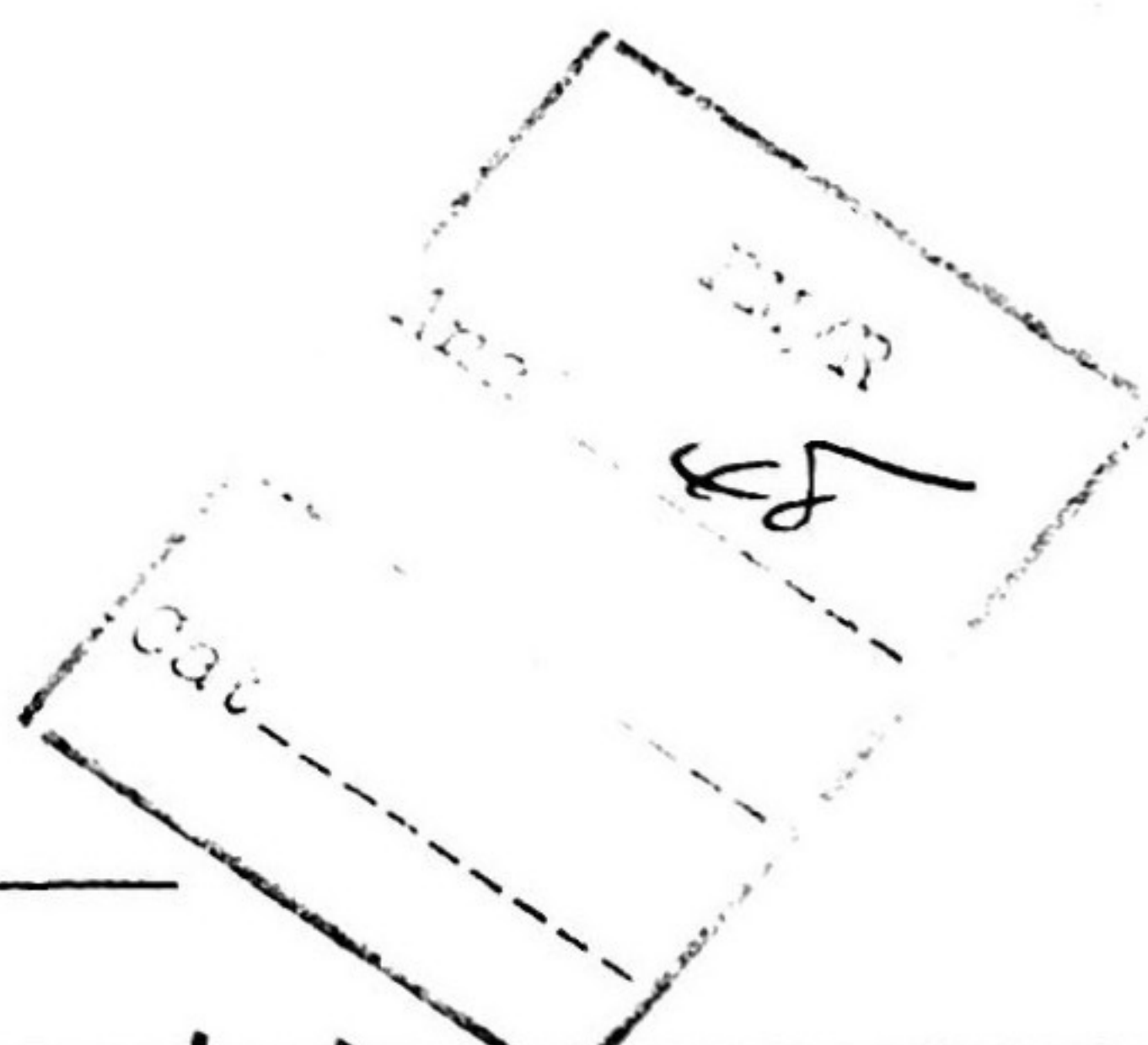
Moroccan Embassy has requested U.S. Govt help and advice in GOM ~~max~~ efforts cope with widespread paralysis due use adulterated cooking oil (your D-178). ^{JW} Embassy states WHO and European medical consultants have studied problem on scene but have been unable suggest effective treatment.

As first step Dept and HEW arranging meeting Dr. Ben Aboud and Surgeon General and leading figures rehabilitation field. Submit any further information or recommendations urgently.

Hertter (MP)

HERTER

871.55



Drafted by:

AF:AFN:WNStokes:gmm 11/17/59

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

AFN - William J. Porter

Clearances:

HEW - Miss Switzer

608 S/S CR

NOV 17 1959 P.M.

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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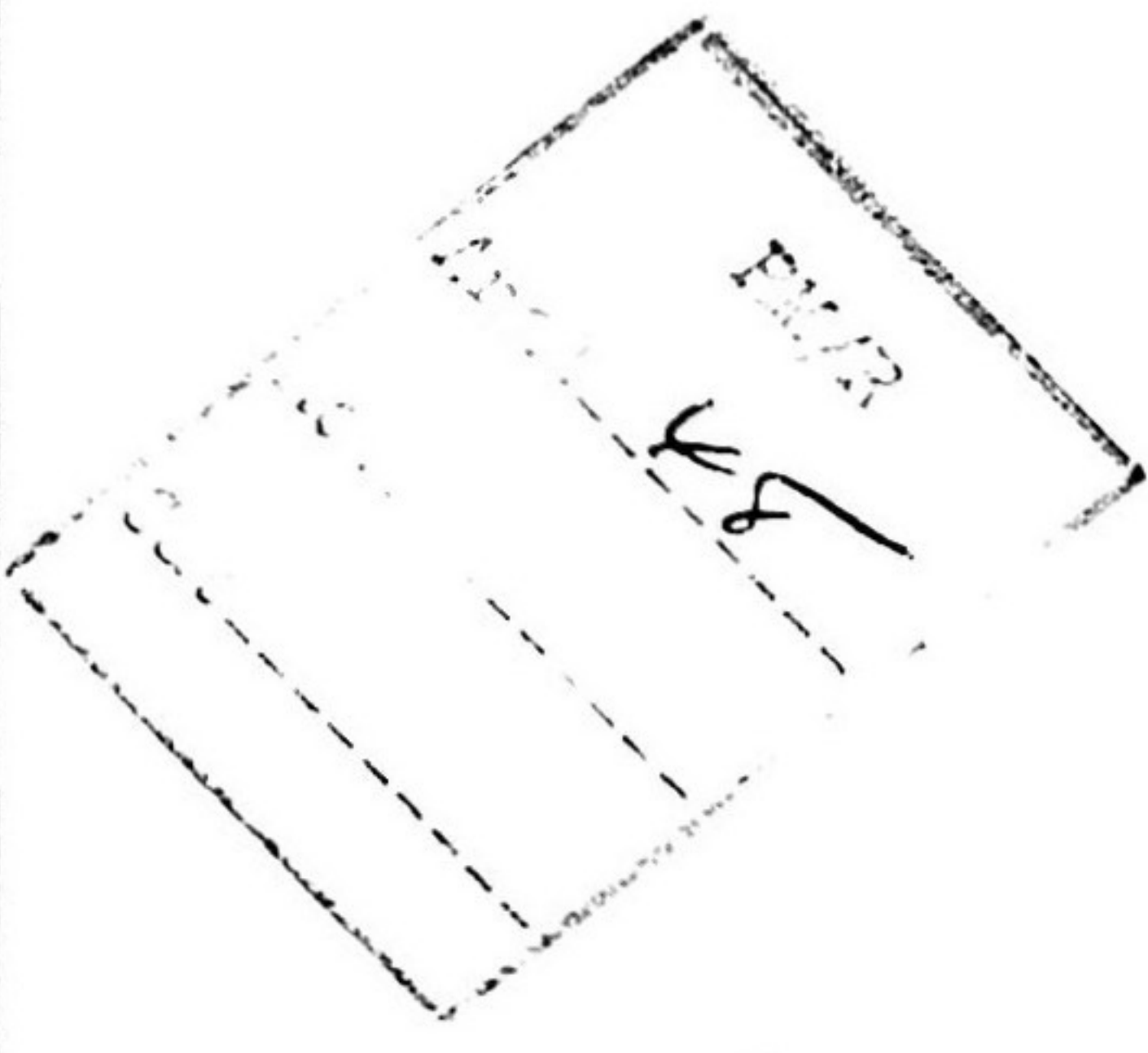
Deptel 838. - 871.55/11-1759

Amb Ben Aboud today received from Dr. Howard Rusk, Director Institute Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Bellevue Medical Center general exposition various measures cope with emergency. Principal recommendation is expedition team six specialists related branches medicine and therapy. Institute has experience successful treatment similar cases.

Amb said he intended consult GOM to see whether it wishes make formal request US assistance.

HERTER
Herter

871.55/11-1759



Drafted by:

AF:AFN:WNStokes:gb 11/20/59

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

AFN- William J. Porter

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42-48

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Action

Control: 13285

Rec'd: November 20, 1959
8:56 p.m.AF
Info

FROM: Rabat

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1035, November 20, 7 p.m.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 1035; REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 444, MADRID 205, BONN, CASABLANCA, TANGIER, MLO COMNAVACTS UNNUMBERED, LONDON 75.

PARIS PASS USCINCEUR FOR FINN AND J-4 FMR

LONDON PASS CINCNELM

BONN PASS CINCUSAFE WIESBADEN.

DEPTEL 838

RMR

Embassy and USAF authorities are receiving both official and unofficial requests from Moroccans for assistance in dealing with "Meknes disease" and its victims as follows:

1. Minister Health has requested Embassy provide full chemical analysis of jet engine flushing oil, sold at surplus sale at Nouasseur air base, which may be principal source toxic oil used in mixture cooking oil causing illness. USAF authorities have agreed furnish analysis.

2. National security has made preliminary request for USG airlift from US of whirlpool baths GOM has ordered from private American Company for physical therapy use victims. Embassy awaiting further necessary details of requirement.

3. Red Crescent has been given assistance by Nouasseur air base, which is in process contributing \$25,000 worth of food surplus.

At present Embassy has decided not define illness as disaster within terms

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-2- 1035, November 20, 7 p.m., from Rabat

within terms CA-11026, June 16, 1958 and respond only to specific Moroccan requests for assistance with view to avoiding additional publicity and appearance culpability. Embassy and USAF authorities are giving sympathetic attention and cooperation Moroccan requests, but responses are without publicity. Embassy believes US effort in this manner adequate for moment and that main emphasis should be upon consultations and contributions of such international organizations as WHO and Red Cross whenever possible.

Embassy requested cessation all further surplus oil sales October 30 and will forward soonest full MLO report on earlier sales now in preparation outlining types oil sold, amounts, purchasers, transaction dates, whether new or used, identifying markings of containers and conditions of sale. Preliminary survey indicates oil possibly in question was in one-quart cans marked in English "lubricating oil, aircraft turbine engine, synthetic base" and "not interchangeable with and not to be mixed with any other aircraft engine oil". Moroccan customs officials participated all surplus sales to extent reading descriptions items being "imported" and levying appropriate duties. No police or health officials presumably connected sales involved at time of transactions, since no precautionary regulations then in effect.

About 10,000 persons now victims illness, principally in Meknes, Sidi Salimane, Sidi Kasim and Khemisset. Adulteration of oil allegedly in ratio about one to twenty. Toxic ingredient believed to be tri-ortho-cresyl-phosphate. Effect is paralysis limbs and in some cases respiratory systems. No known deaths.

AVANT GARDS (UMT) article November 15 devoted main article to demand for full investigation, stating that if true US officials had sold toxic oil without proper notification to Moroccan authorities, then US officials primarily responsible for catastrophe.

GOM has declared poisoning national disaster, through no official complaint from any quarter made to US officials. Recent Dahir authorizes death penalty, even retroactively, in cases persons knowingly trafficking contaminated comestibles.

TIME and

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-3- 1035, November 20, 7 p.m., from Rabat

TIME and LIFE correspondents here on special assignment cover "Meknes disease". They have made photos at Nouasseur and have obtained picture of label one suspect oil container.

Embassy Naval Attache has Senau Oni report medical history progress illness and other pertinent developments (IR 238-59 of November 10), enclosing WHO medical report. Full MLO report follows soonest, as do our further recommendations.

YOST

MGG:HC/7

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MESSAGE CENTER

SECRET

FROM: Rabat

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1047, November 21, 7 p.m.

Control: 13717

Rec'd: November 21, 1959
4:59 p.m.SENT DEPARTMENT 1047, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 451, LONDON 76,
MADRID 212, BONN, CASABLANCA, TANGIER MLO COMNAVACTS UNNUMBERED

PARIS PASS US CINCENR FOR FINN AND J-4 FMR

LONDON FOR CINCNELM

BONN PASS CINCUSAFE WIESBADEN

EMBTTEL 1035

Embassy suggests following measures for consideration in US assistance Morocco in meeting "Meknes disease" crisis. Items two, three, four, and five should be considered in context current discussion between Moroccan Ambassador US and HEW and other officials (DEPTEL 838).

1. US provision of any pertinent information this disease its medical records. WHO has contributed some information similar experiences Europe, but nothing very helpful. GOM suggests there was analagous disaster in midwest in early thirties called "ginger paralysis", which reportedly affected 152,000 persons.

2. US designation small medical team, including toxicologist, to study disease in Morocco. USAFE Wiesbaden is to conduct chemical analyses toxic oils in question, and data should be available within week. Moroccan officials, with whom such team would probably work and who are presently responsible investigation, include Dr. Faraj, ex-Minister Public Health, now Institute Hygiene, Mr. Soyer, Institute Hygiene, Mr. Charnot, Director, toxicological lab, and Mr. Toubol, fraud lab.

3. Present information or lack of information has

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compelled

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-2- 1047, November 21, 7 p.m., from Rabat

compelled local medical authorities conclude only help to be given victims is physical therapy. US provision of physiotherapy instructor and 20 physiotherapists, preferably via American Red Cross, would help meet urgent need these specialists, of whom scarcely any present Morocco.

4. US provision physiotherapy equipment, such as whirlpool bath, and other hospital equipment, including cots and bedding, would be useful. Foreign sources, including LICROSS and WHO, already reportedly undertaking provision general hospital equipment and supplies.

5. Disease is most widely prevalent among poorest elements population and whole families affected. Therefore, provision food and clothing these victims, who in many cases destitute and helpless, would be helpful.

6. Cash grant by American Red Cross, possibly to Moroccan Red Crescent directly or through LICROSS in response its current international appeal.

7. Embassy hopes USCINCEUR "cold war" plan and provision funds requested can be approved. If these funds not granted immediate use, Embassy believes that authorization employment smaller \$50,000 emergency fund in pursuance "cold war" objectives would be useful contribution general US effort help Morocco.

Comment: Embassy recommends consideration any and all above measures, but believes guide lines should continue be (1) desirability indirect assistance through private and international agencies as possible, (2) responses specific GOM requests, and (3) avoidance aggressive publicity Morocco. Publicity originating outside Morocco in US or elsewhere less problem.

YOST

AAL:FKG/9

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1959 NOV 23 PM 6

11713

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Origin

SENT TO: Amembassy RABAT

882

Info:

RPTD INFO: /BONN (CINCUSAFE)

1106

Amembassy PARIS (CINCEUR)

2176

Amembassy LONDON (CINCNELM)

4101

871.55/11-2159
871.49

final para

Emtel 1047. Dept approves handling recommended/reftel and is taking same line with Moroccan Embassy.

Defense has approved Cold War plan, and \$50,000 emergency expenditure thereunder response CINCEUR recommendation paralysis disaster relief. Commanders informed separately.

American Red Cross studying LICROSS appeal, but has no facilities send rehabilitation team (para 4 reftel).

Does Embassy/USOM have any suggestion about funding travel expenses envisaged para 2 reftel and Deptel 871 such as USOM technical support project funds? This financial assistance need not be at all obstrusive and Institute Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation believed willing otherwise sponsor team.

(This planning contingent specific Moroccan request presumably through Embassy here.)

Hester (mp)

HERTER

Drafted by:

AF:AFN:WNStokes:fej

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

AFN - William J. Porter

Clearances:

ACA/AFE - Mr. Templeton per wing

ARC - Mr. Elsey per wing

Defense - Col. Junkerman per wing

AFN - Mr. Buckle

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NOV 28 1959 P.M.

871.55/11-2159

871.55/11-2159

37

Action

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

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PAGE OF PAGES

AF

Info

FROM: Amembassy RABAT

Date Sent: November 23, 1959

Rec'd:

TO: Department of State, Washington

NO: G-101

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Press, November 20, 1959, features UPI story from Geneva according which LICROSS appealed all nations, November 19, come to assistance 10,000 Moroccans poisoned by toxic oil.

It is estimated, story continues, \$3,000,000 immediately required for construction hospital at Meknes, opening 17 treatment centers in area. Additional \$1½ million yearly for 25 years required for rehabilitation of victims who expected remain more or less incapacitated for life.

LICROSS said have launched its appeal pursuant to meeting held with Dr. Mohammed BENHIMA, SYG of Public Health Min and reps of WHO. Children under 18 who said to account for over half all victims will be given priority enjoy assistance as it becomes available. LICROSS SYG quoted as saying, "We shall spare no effort obtain help national Red Cross, Red Crescent Societies to obtain equipment and personnel requested by GOM."

Papers also report Austrian Red Cross will give Morocco a hospital, equipment capable treating 100 patients. Gifts will be sent in a few days, papers say.

POL: PSebastian:st

DDDickinson

YOST

DGNes

CC: Amcongen Casablanca
Amcongen Tangier

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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58

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Action

Control: 15239
Rec'd: NOVEMBER 24, 1959
2:57 PM

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Info

FROM: RABAT

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1063, NOVEMBER 24

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SENT DEPARTMENT 1063; REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 457, MADRID 215, TUNIS 270, VIENNA 3, STOCKHOLM 3, CASABLANCA, TANGIER UNNUMBERED

TOXIC OIL

PRESS, NOVEMBER 24, CARRIES REPORT THAT IN RESPONSE TO LICROSS APPEAL (EMBAIR G-101) SWEDEN HAS AGREED TO SEND TEAM PHYSICIANS, PHYSIOTHERAPISTS AND EQUIPMENT TO MOROCCO. OTHER COUNTRIES PREPARING ANNOUNCE CONTRIBUTIONS. LICROSS SAID HAVE ASSIGNED 1,000 BEDS FROM IS VIENNA DISASTER RESERVES, IS REPORTEDLY STUDYING AIR, SEA, RAIL TRANSPORTATION POSSIBILITIES FOR QUICKEST SHIPMENT AID TO MOROCCO.

YOST

JRC-22

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871.55/11-2459

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

SECRET

Classification

1959 NOV 24 PM 5 55

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Origin

SENT TO: Amembassy RABAT

892

Info:

RPTD INFO: Amembassy
BONN (CINCUSAFE)
Amembassy PARIS (CINCEUR)
Amembassy LONDON (CINCHELM)

1123

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871.55/11-2159
XR 871.49

Further to Deptel 882. JCS recommended cold-war plan and total funding thereof being reviewed by Defense. Will advise when final approval given.

HERTER
Herter

871.55/11-2459

871.55/11-2459

Drafted by:

AF:AFN:PRChase:jej 11/24/59

Telegraphic transmission and

Classification approved by:

AFN - Mr. Porter

Clearances:

Defense - Col. Junkerman

SECRET

NOV 24 1959 P.M.

Classification

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43

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Action

Control: 16271

Rec'd: November 25, 1959
6:21 p.m.

AF

FROM: Rabat

Info

INR

TO: Secretary of State

EUR

IO

NO: 1080, November 25, 4 p.m.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 1080, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 464, LONDON 78,
CASABLANCA, TANGIER, BONN UNNUMBERED.

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PARIS FOR CINCEUR

CIA

OSD

ARMY

BONN FOR CINCUSAFE

NAVY

AIR

LONDON FOR CINCNELM

RMR

Department telegram 871.

Re US consideration means assistance Morocco in "Meknes disease" crises, USOM agrees finance technical support involved travel expenses possibly US medical team. USOM requests advice amount for administrative obligation.

Moroccan national security has requested Embassy provide French-language copy of current US Food and Drug Act for use its preparation first such Moroccan law. Copy is needed within 15 days. Embassy requests Department provide it such copy since none available here and no adequate technical translation facilities present locally.

YOST

MGG:RKF-1

*Wyatt mail**not for file*

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
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1959 NOV 25 PM 7

13400

Classification

Origin

SENT TO: Amembassy RABAT

905

Info:

Deptel 871. 871.55

Moroccan Embassy today informed Department WHO and LICROSS coordinating assistance paralysis victims. American Red Cross coordinating with Institute Physical Medicine offer LICROSS small medical and pysiotherapy survey team if requested by WHO to ascertain needs this field. Involves 3 to 5 persons for about two weeks. If Emb/USOM cannot finance travel expenses ARC might.

LICROSS has asked ARC intercede with USG transport ten ton field hospital donated by Austrian Red Cross. Defense considering.

Hector (MP) ER



Drafted by:
AF:AFN:WNStokes, jej
11/25/59

Clearances:

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

AFN - William J. Porter

NOV 25 1959 P.M.

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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1959 NOV 30 PM 3

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871.55/11-3059

Origin

SENT TO: Amembassy RABAT

928

Info:

Deptel 871.55

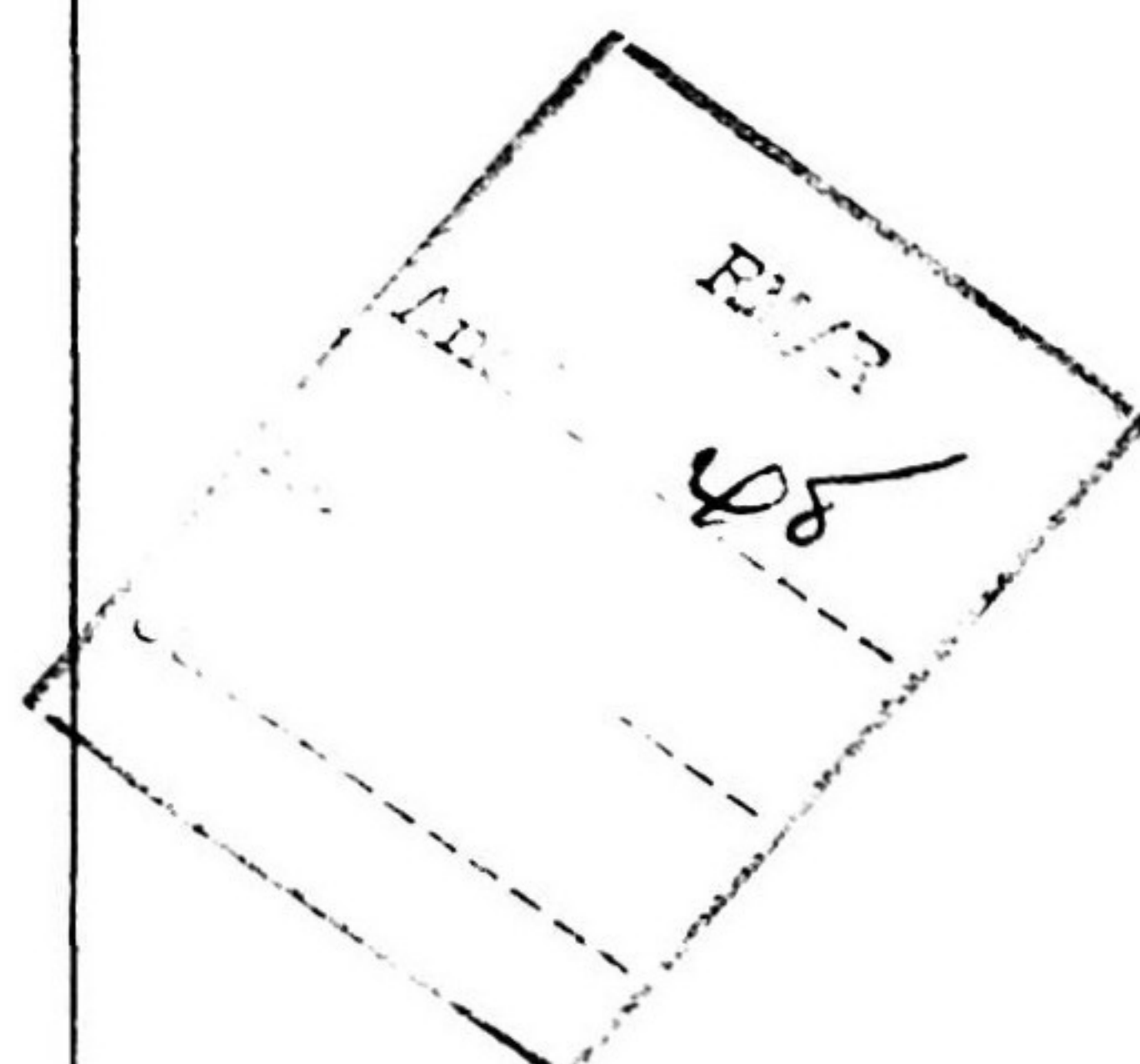
Defense furnishing air transport Austrian field hospital.

WHO not interested survey team and stresses long-term requirements (sojourns six months or longer) doctors and technicians, but has made no specific requests this field. This aspect therefore in suspense.

English copy Food and Drug Act being airmailed soonest. Regret inability translate Act under close deadline, due pressure more urgent projects (e.g. survey team reports).

Hertes (w)

HERTER



Drafted by:
AF:AFN:WNStokes: jej 11/30/59

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

William J. Porter

Clearances:

OES - Mr. Wyatt

LS - Mr. Leon

Defense - Col. Junkerman

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24 Feb
NOV 30 1959 P.M.

871.55/11-3059

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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53
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UNCLASSIFIED

Control: 18582
Rec'd: NOVEMBER 30, 1959
2:38 P.M.

FROM: RABAT

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1102, NOVEMBER 30

SENT DEPARTMENT 1102, REPEATED INFORMATION GENEVA 23, PARIS 472, MADRID 219, TUNIS 275, OSLO, STOCKHOLM, COPENHAGEN, CASABLANCA, BERN, LONDON, TANGIER UNNUMBERED

TOXIC OIL.

PRESS, NOVEMBER 27, FRONT-PAGING REPORT VICTIMS TOXIC OIL TO BE TREATED BY PHYSICIANS FIVE COUNTRIES; REPORTS ARRIVAL LICROSS REP IN MOROCCO TODAY. ARTICLE STATES:

TWENTY-FOUR, I.E. MORE THAN HALF, OF NUMBER PHYSICIANS AND PHYSIOTHERAPISTS, REQUESTED BY LICROSS TO TREAT 10,000 VICTIMS TOXIC OIL, NOW AVAILABLE.

RED CROSS SOCIETIES OF US, DENMARK, NORWAY, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND AGREED SEND ONE OR TWO PHYSICIANS EACH AND BETWEEN ONE AND FIVE PHYSIOTHERAPISTS. BRITISH RED CROSS WILL SEND PHYSIOTHERAPISTS.

MR. SCHAEFFER, AIDE TO SYG LICROSS, WILL ENPLANE FROM MOROCCO NOVEMBER 27 WHERE HE WILL STUDY ORGANIZATION INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS PARALYSIS WITH AUTHORITIES CONCERNED.

YOST

JR

file noted
2/2/60

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34

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FROM: Rabat

Info

AF

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1121, December 1

Control: 714

Rec'd: December 1, 1959
5:06 p.m.SENT DEPARTMENT 1121, REPEATED INFORMATION CASABLANCA,
TANGIER UNNUMBERED

EMBDES 151.

In view widespread interest edible oil adulteration and various efforts made assist would be helpful if some or all of publications requested reference despatch could be received.

YOST

TR/10

File *[initials]*
Haw/a

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DEC 1 4 1959

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Action

AF

FROM: RABAT

Control: 544

Rec'd: DECEMBER 1, 1959
2:00 P.M.

Info

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1119, DECEMBER 1

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SENT DEPARTMENT 119, REPEATED INFORMATION CASABLANCA UNNUMBERED,
TANGIER UNNUMBERED

TOXIC OIL.

PRESS, NOVEMBER 29, CARRIES REPORT GERMAN FED RED CROSS,
REACTING TO LICROSS APPEAL, HAS LAUNCHED DRIVE IN FED REP,
HAS ALREADY COLLECTED 400 BEDS, MATTRESSES; FUNDS BEING
COLLECTED IN SPECIAL ACCOUNT IN NAME "MOROCCAN AID", ARTICLE
SAYS.

SPOKESMAN DEFENSE MIN QUOTED TO EFFECT GERMAN HELP WILL REACH
MOROCCO ON BOARD MILITARY AIRCRAFT BASED NEAR MUNICH.

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21 Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : AF - Mr. Satterthwaite *JS*

DATE: December 1, 1959

FROM : AFN - William J. Porter *WP*

SUBJECT: Moroccan Paralysis Victims--Status Report

As you know, approximately 10,000 Moroccan subjects have been stricken with paralysis of the limbs following their consumption of cooking oil adulterated with a cleaning compound sold as surplus by the U.S. bases. Since the oil was clearly marked, no implication of responsibility has been imputed to us.

Although the base commanders immediately contributed food, clothing, and medicine to a value of \$10,000 and are planning additional contributions to a total of \$50,000, no request for U.S. assistance has been made of U.S. authorities by the Moroccan Government since the first outbreak in September. Moroccan authorities turned rather to the World Health Organization and the League of Red Cross Societies for medical guidance, and a number of European specialists were despatched immediately.

On November 17th Mr. Alami of the Moroccan Embassy, evidently acting on the Ambassador's own initiative, asked AFN to put the Ambassador in touch with leading U.S. specialists who might be able to advise regarding prospective U.S. assistance. The Department arranged meetings for the Ambassador with the Surgeon General (Public Health Service) and Dr. Howard Rusk (Bellevue Medical Center, New York), who was recommended by Dr. DeVault and HEW. (HEW was anxious to avoid endorsement by the U.S. Government of various local rehabilitation centers which had offered gratis assistance but which apparently are not in the best professional repute.) Dr. Rusk outlined to the Ambassador a generous and energetic plan of assistance which greatly gratified the Ambassador who, however, felt he should consult his government with a view to obtaining a formal request for U.S. assistance. Two days later Mr. Alami telephoned AFN and Dr. Rusk to explain rather lamely that the Moroccan Government had replied by stating that WHO was coordinating all offers of assistance any any such offers should be made to that organization in Geneva. (The Ambassador apparently felt that his government wished him to take no more initiative because he did not go ahead with the arrangements we had made for him to see the Surgeon General.)

Bellevue Medical Center

3 The ~~Institution~~ nevertheless repeated its offer to WHO, indicating that it would send a survey team at U.S. expense to Morocco to ascertain what precise medical and technical gaps could be filled by American professionals. WHO rather coolly responded that no survey was needed (see

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AF: AFN: *WJ Porter* : *gum*

871.557/12-159

-2-

attachment) and that any help (which it did not specify) should be long range and large scale. The Institution does not feel that it can proceed on this basis and the matter of medical help from the U.S. seems therefore to be stalled due to lack of initiative from either WHO or the Moroccan Government. *We are, however, going back again to WHO (Deptel 1404 to Geneva).*

In the matter of material assistance, especially relief supplies and hospital facilities, appeals have been directed by the League of Red Cross Societies to its national components, including the American Red Cross. ARC has donated an initial \$5,000, has obtained USAF transportation to Morocco for an Austrian field hospital, and is consulting with Defense (through OES, Mr. Wyatt) about further material help. OES, as liaison with WHO; and SCA, as liaison with the American Red Cross, have requested and have been given by AFN responsibility for coordinating American efforts in this field.

Attachment:

- 1) Copy of telegram from LICROSS to AMCROSS dated November 26, 1959.
- 2) *Deptel 1404 to Geneva — see Chan for Geneva 1404*

WR
AF:AFN:WNStokes:gmm
12/1/59

43

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Action

Control:

1932

Rec'd:

DECEMBER 3, 1959

4:11 AM

AF

FROM: TUNIS

Info

TO: Secretary of State

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AIR

RMR

NO: 798, DECEMBER 2

SENT DEPARTMENT 798, REPEATED INFORMATION RABAT 194.

RADIO TUNIS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT BOURGUIBA, DISTURBED BY SUFFERING IN MOROCCO FOLLOWING WIDESPREAD PARALYSIS FROM ADULTERATED OLIVE OIL, IS SENDING 5 PERSON DELEGATION TO RABAT HEADED BY ABDELAZIZ DJELLOULI, PRESIDENT TUN RED CRESCENT, AND RADHIA HADDAD, PRESIDENT UNFT (NEO-DESTOUR CONTROLLED TUNISIAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION) TO PRESENT 10 THOUSAND DINAR CONTRIBUTION AND FIND OUT WHAT ELSE TUNISIANS CAN DO TO LESSEN SUFFERING. BROADCAST MADE NO MENTION OF US ORIGIN OF FUEL OIL USED TO ADULTERATE OLIVE OIL.

WALMSLEY

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JAN 10 1960

JAN 13 1960

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Department of State

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AF

Date Sent: Dec. 2, 1959

Info

FROM: Ambassador RABAT

Rec'd:

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TO: SecState WASHINGTON

INR

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NO: G-128

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Toxic Oil.

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Press, November 28, announces Swiss Federal Council decided give 750,000 S/Fres to Swiss Red Cross for help to victims paralysis in Morocco.

Netherlands RedCross, according papers, will send 500 blankets, 1,500 sheets and 1,000 pillow covers to Moroccan Red Crescent for victims toxic oil.

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DEC 10 1959
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AFControl: 1396
Rec'd: DECEMBER 2, 1959
11:42 A.M.Info
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AIR
RMR

FROM: RABAT

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1130, DECEMBER 2

SENT DEPARTMENT 1130, REPEATED INFORMATION BONN 8, MUNICH 3,
GENEVA 25, CASABLANCA, TANGIER UNNUMBERED

TOXIC OIL.

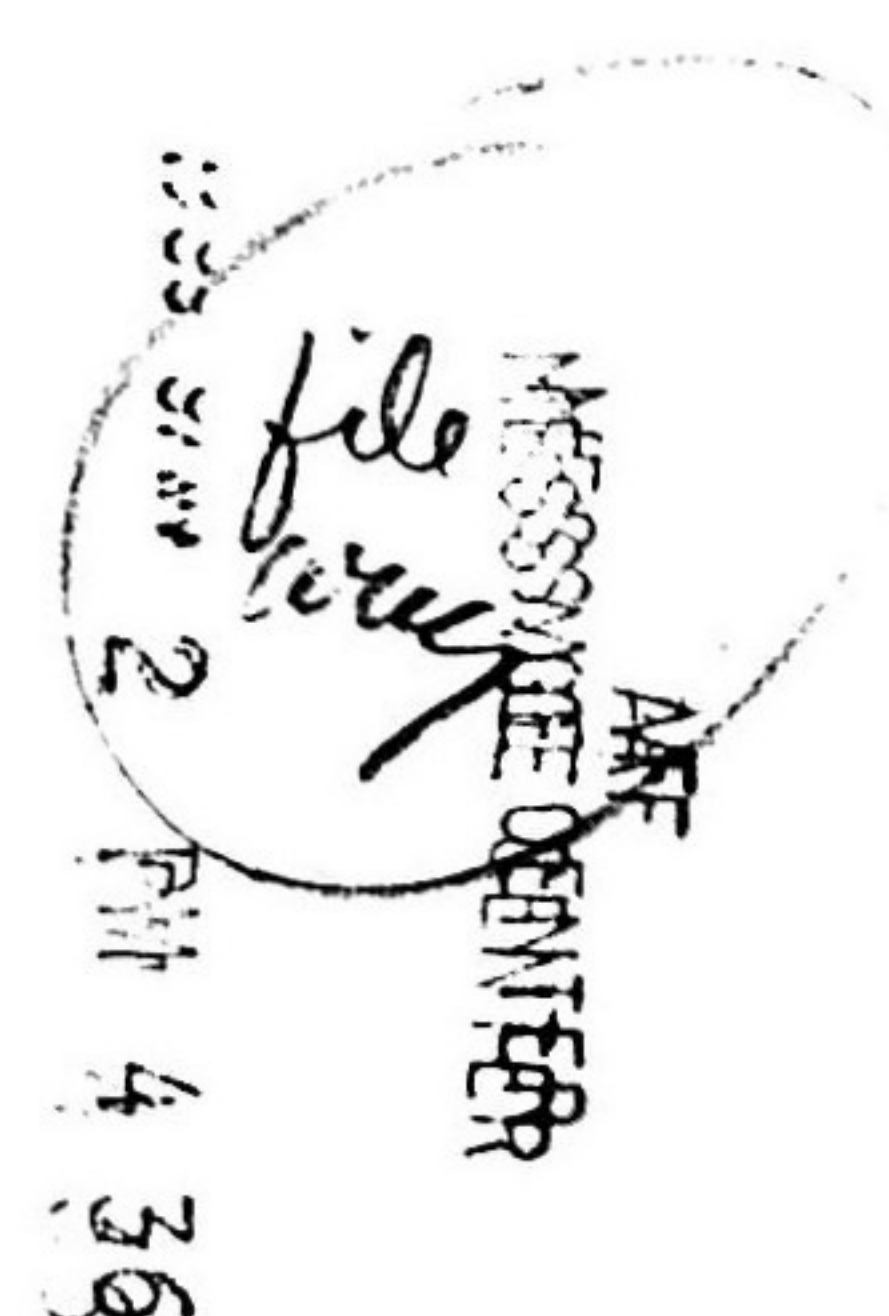
PRESS, DECEMBER 2, ANNOUNCES 6 AIRCRAFT OF WEST GERMAN AIR FORCE
WILL LAND DECEMBER 2, 3 AT RABAT-SALEO# WITH 240 HOSPITAL BEDS FOR
REHABILITATION CENTERS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN RURAL, URBAN REGIONS OF
MOROCCO IN CONNECTION TOXIC OIL DISEASE. ANOTHER SHIPMENT 160 BEDS
WILL FOLLOW, ACCORDING PRESS.

YOST

JR

AS RECEIVED

*Called
Junkerman
12/2*



DEC 11 1959

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Control: 2180
Rec'd: DECEMBER 3, 1959
9:28 A.M.AF
Info

FROM: RABAT

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1134, DECEMBER 3

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AIRSENT DEPARTMENT 1134, REPEATED INFORMATION GENEVA 26, BONN 9,
VIENNA 4, CASABLANCA, TANGIER UNNUMBEREDTOXIC OIL.PRESS, DECEMBER 1, FEATURES ARRIVAL OF GIFT AUSTRIAN RED CROSS,
100 BEDS, OTHER EQUIPMENT, FOR ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS TOXIC OIL,
VIA USAF GLOBEMASTER.PLANE ALSO BROUGHT DEPUTY DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
SCHAEFFER AND GEORGEAN ZOGLOU WHO ASSIGNED BY LICROSS TO WORK
ON EKES POISONING.EQUIPMENT BROUGHT BY GLOBEMASTER SCHEDULED FOR KEMISSET, ACCORDING
PRESS, WHERE RE-EDUCATION CENTER FOR VICTIMS PARALYSIS TO BE
SET UP.

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JR

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Action

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

AF

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Date Sent: Dec. 9, 1959

Rec'd:

Info

FROM: AmEmbassy RABAT

TO: SecState, WASHINGTON, D.C.

C-146

NO: REF: Embtel 1134, December 3, 1959

RPTD INFO: AmEmbassy	PARIS	AmEmbassy	BONN	AmEmbassy	VIENNA	STANGIER
"	TUNIS	"	LONDON	AmConGen	GENEVA	
"	MADRID	"	THE HAGUE	"	MUNICH	
"	STOCKHOLM	"	BERNE	"	CASABLANCA	

The Minister of Public Health Dr. Youssef Ben Abbes held a press conference on December 3, 1959 to explain where the situation now stood regarding the toxic oil disease. Present were Security Director Mohamed Laghsaoui and the Director of the Institute of National Hygiene, Dr. Farra. The gist of his remarks is given below.

Today the health problem faced by Morocco is under control. All suspect oil has been withdrawn from circulation. No new cases have been brought to light, and steps are being taken to set up treatment for the sufferers.

The Minister recalled that the disease was discovered on September 17 at Meknes and its cause learned three weeks later in the laboratories of the Institute of National Hygiene. In view of the magnitude of the harm done, the King called a Cabinet meeting and gave strict instructions. The Ministry of Public Health had given three-fourths of its time to the problem ever since the outbreak. Now treatment was being worked out for the 9,500 patients along the only lines open: re-education. The task was too much for the country to tackle alone, and for this reason an appeal was made to international bodies, which had responded quickly.

All is now ready for the establishment of re-education centers recommended by Dr. Leroy, a French doctor representing WHO. These centers will need 20 doctors, 7 social workers, 115 nurses and monitors, 550 nurses' aides, 2 administrators, 20 clerks, 18 secretaries, and 165 service employees. In addition, a great deal of special equipment will be needed. The buildings used will be a military hospital in Alhucemas, barracks in Meknes and Kenitra, converted warehouses in Sidi Kacem, Sidi Slimane and Khemisset. It will take 800,000,000 francs per year to run these centers, and they will be needed for many years.

International organizations decided to help at a meeting in Geneva on November 18. The International Red Cross will send 10 doctors and 31 nurses, as well as 2,400 beds, clothing and food. WHO promised some doctors and scientific material. The International Fund to Save Children is donating 1,400 beds, and ILO has promised help in training

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the 2,000 children who are victims of the poisoning.

In order to relieve the Public Health authorities of the task of re-education, which will be a long one, the headquarters for the medical treatment of the victims is being set up at the Institute of Hygiene. The Moroccan Red Crescent will centralize the help offered, and the Public Health Ministry will handle personnel and material problems. The "Entree-aide Nationale" has already contributed 10 million francs (about \$20,000). The centers will be almost ready in about two weeks. Then offers of skilled personnel from international bodies will be solicited. For the moment, help is coming from various countries which are asked to work through the International Red Cross.

The Minister appealed to all Moroccans to help in the task of re-education of the victims and added that 700 million francs (about \$1,400,000) was required for those in need. He thanked the Director of National Security, Mr. Laghsacui, whose organization was able to remove all toxic oil from circulation in two weeks and to guarantee the safety of all that remained. Mr. Laghsacui, who was present, observed at this point that over 30 persons had been arrested and were being held for trial. The trials will take place soon, he said. All measures to prevent further poisoning of this kind had been taken.

The Minister then concluded the press conference by thanking the international organizations and the foreign Red Cross agencies for the timely and valuable aid they had furnished.

YOST

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INCOMING AIRGRAM

Department of State

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Date Sent: Dec. 9, 1959

Reg'd:

PAGE 1 OF 47

Info

FROM: AmEmbassy RABAT

TO: SecState, WASHINGTON, D.C.

NO: G-147

RPTD INFO: AmEmbassy PARIS

" TUNIS

" MADRID

AmConGon TANGIER

" CASABLANCA

Toxic Oils

December 8 King Mohamed V received Tunisian Red Crescent delegation bringing gift of 12 million francs (about \$24,000) from President Bourguiba for victims of toxic oil disease. Delegation headed by Azis Djolouli, President Tunisian Red Crescent.

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1959 DEC 17 AM 7 12

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Department of State

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43

CONFIDENTIAL

Action

Control: 8546

AF

Rec'd: December 11, 1959

Info

9:42 p.m.

FROM: Rabat

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1216, December 11, 8 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 1216; REPEATED INFORMATION GENEVA 30, PARIS
509, CASABLANCA, TANGIER UNNUMBERED

Subject: Toxic Oil Disaster

DCM has discussed at length with Ministry Health Cabinet
Director measures being taken care for victims and obtained
confirmation following foreign and international contributions
meet this problem promised to date:

Tunisia -- M/frames 12,000,000 (\$24,000)

Licross promised 10 doctors, 31 nurses, 2,400 beds, clothing,
food.

(Note: Not clear whether from reserve stocks or contributed
by National Red Cross Societies.)

UNICEF -- Donating 1,400 beds.

ILO -- Donating assistance in training for 2,000 children who
victims toxic oil.

Entr'aide -- Contributing M/frames 10,000,000 (\$20,000).

Austria -- Red Cross sending 100-bed hospital equipment staff.

Switzerland -- Red Cross 770,000 S/frames, 1,500 blankets,
3,000 sheets and towels, 5,000 nightshirts.

Netherlands -- Red Cross sending 500 blankets, 1,000 pillowcases,
1,500 sheets.

Federal Republic Germany -- Red Cross 400 hospital beds, mattresses;
funds being

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871.55/12-1159

CAA

1959 DEC 12

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-2- 1216, December 11, 8 p.m., from Rabat

funds being collected by Federal Republic Red Cross.

Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland and US Red Cross Societies will make available one-two physicians, one-five physiotherapists each. British Red Cross will send five physiotherapists.

Swede promised 2,800-bed hospital staff equipment, sum of 100,000 S/crowns (F/francs 10,000,000).

France -- Making available 200 beds in wing of French military hospital Meknes.

Morocco Government placing 100,000,000 F at disposal Ministry Public Health for creation centers of re-education.

Canada -- Providing fully equipped tent field hospital 400 beds plus two physiotherapists and two doctors.

USAF Nouasseur AFB giving foodstuffs valued at \$25,000: Red Cross sent gifts of \$5,000.

From above would appear US lagging far behind in concrete action be of assistance and accordingly Ministry Health requested forward Embassy in writing on urgent basis concrete suggestions whereby US might help fill any gaps between above offers and GOM requirements. Cabinet Director agreed to be most useful US offer should be based on his Ministry's review entire situation in light offers thus far received. This he promised to do.

Comment: Although Embassy believes its initial policy of not rushing in precipitously with offers assistance correct time has come when US effort obviously insignificant comparison other contributions. Urge therefore that as soon as specific GOM request received Department do everything possible assure immediate and favorable US response.

YOST

VH:LCC/9

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871.55/12-1159

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43

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Action

Control: 8524
Rec'd: December 11, 1959
7:38 p.m.AF
Info

FROM: Rabat

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1219, December 11, 8 p.m.

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CIASENT DEPARTMENT 1219; REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 511, GENEVA
32, CASABLANCA, TANGIER UNNUMBERED.

Department telegram 928

OFR

RMR

Embassy now in receipt copy US Food Drug Act. USOM can
translate into French but one month required at least and
GOM requests sooner. Does Department know of French trans-
lation made of present or earlier Act which almost equally
suitable for purpose in response similar request from other
foreign government or health officials? Does Library of
Congress or WHO or other international organization have
translation? French paraphrase or summary would also
probably be satisfactory.

YOST

ME:OES/10

Paris sending

1959 DEC 12 AM 10 15
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53

Action

CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM:Rabat

Info

SS

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1217, December 12, Noon

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Control: 8907

Rec'd:

December 12, 1959
11:45 a.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 1217, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 510, TUNIS 293,
MADRID 245, GENEVA 31, CASABLANCA AND TANGIER UNNUMBERED

Reference: Geneva telegram 923 to Department .

Toxic Oils.

Re second paragraph reference telegram. It noteworthy that nature of malady not completely understood. Embassy has received note from GOM Minister Public Health in which complete chemical analysis American lube oils requested view fact patients exhibiting symptoms (symptomes surajoutees) unexplained by known clinical picture tri-ortho-cresyl-phosphate intoxication.

Re third paragraph reference telegram. While GOM officials have not held USAF publicly responsible this disaster, their reticence not shared by others and political pressures are increasing to point where convenient scapegoat may be searched out for sacrifice. Appearance articles in TIME, LIFE, NEWSWEEK, while objective and moderate, not helpful, since GOM hypersensitive to its own vulnerability on this subject due absence protective laws and surveillance, fumbling medical efforts to accommodate victims, concern over possible decline foreign purchases oil-packed sardines, and possible repercussions on tourist trade.

Already, AVANT GARDE, November 15, UNFP, has pointed finger at "foreign military authorities" who "may have been negligent", while AL MACHAHID of this week (no. 34, 1959), a life-type pictorial magazine, shows picture of can lube oil, headlines an essentially balanced account of events in wide black border American Military Surpluse at Root of Disaster (subtitle: 10,000 Moroccans, one Frenchman, zero Jews poisoned). With reappearance Istiqlal Par press scheduled for December 12, moreover, Embassy expects detailed attention US angle disaster, particular in view fact

Mohamed

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-2- 1217, December 12, Noon from Rabat

Mohamed Lyazidi, editor AL ISTIQLAL, stated to Embassy officer in November that, if party press were operating, he would demand an investigation reasons why US sold jet engine lubricant in less well developed Moroccan market (EMBDES 203).

Fact Moroccan authorities aware nature of product in process customs clearance at bases and evident absence US responsibility in connection with criminal use to which lube oil put do not per se obviate public outcry against US if anti-American campaign permitted gather headway in press or if politicians, CHICOMS, Soviets decide attempt exploit issue.

Despatch with OSI report on sales, police observations, et cetera, follows.

YOST

JAK:DGH/1

CONFIDENTIAL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. George H. Haselton
Mr. Delano McKelvey

DATE: December 14, 1959

FROM : Alice B. Correll

SUBJECT: Moroccan Relief Needs

7 de
Reported to O R M
which has provided some
tents. Has Genl. Gruenther's
letter been received
12/14/59

According to reports, some 10,000 Moroccans have been paralyzed as a result of using table oil which had been adulterated, by Moroccan merchants, with surplus machine oil reportedly sold by the United States Air Force.

The World Health Organization has been asked by the Moroccan Government to coordinate necessary relief measures, doctors and therapists. Apparently, cures are not expected, but the paralysis may be alleviated and further damage may be prevented. The World Health Organization has assigned to the League of Red Cross Societies the task of securing a portion of the needs and the League has appealed to member Societies, among them the ARC.

It appears that as a result of action by member Societies, other than the Red Cross, the personnel needs have been met and several hundred beds have been provided, many of which have been air lifted to Morocco by the United States Air Force. The present pressing request is for 2 four hundred bed field hospitals.

From inquiries made here, it appears that a limited number of 200 bed field hospitals and a considerable number of hospital beds (or field type army cots) are available through ICA, Defense, GSA and/or OCDM. Procurement could be handled by ICA.

The ARC informally requested the Department to take the initial action to have the material needed made available to the Red Cross. However, AFN was disinclined to take the initiative in the absence of a request or recommendation from the American Embassy/USOM at Rabat and OES was disinclined to do so in the absence of a request from the World Health Organization. The ARC has been informed that the Department will not request supplies for the Red Cross, but if the ARC requests them on a humanitarian basis, the Department will endorse the request. Mr. Elsey, American Red Cross, stated that he would convey this message to General Gruenther and would inform the Department later what it proposed to do.

Mr. Elsey, on December 11, stated that a letter had been sent by General Gruenther to the Secretary requesting the needed hospital beds.

SCA:SCS: ABCorrell:mp

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26/12	
27/12	
28/12	
29/12	
30/12	
31/12	

12-15-
Quentin letter
to AFN for action
Rabat not needed
personnel
needed
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571.55/12-1453 08/11/59

INCOMING TELEGRAM**Department of State****ACTION COPY**

35-31

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CONFIDENTIAL

Control: 10680

Rec'd: DECEMBER 15. 1959
11:18 PM

FROM: RABAT

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1251, DECEMBER 15, 7 PM

SENT DEPARTMENT 1251; REPEATED INFORMATION GENEVA 35, CASABLANCA, TANGIER UNNUMBERED.

GENEVA'S 934 TO DEPARTMENT.

EMBASSY SUGGESTS DUNNING'S REQUEST FOR FIELD HOSPITALS FROM US BE SUSPENDED PENDING FURTHER ASSESSMENT BY GOM ITS PRECISE NEEDS. GREATER NEED THAN FOR HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL STAFFS AT MOMENT APPEARS BE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE HELP, FOOD, CLOTHING, AND EXERCISE EQUIPMENT. GOM PRESENTLY UNABLE ASSIMILATE HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT ALREADY HERE OR ON WAY.

EMBASSY BELIEVES ADDITIONAL REASON FOR SHORT POSTPONEMENT ACTION IS DESIRABILITY NOT GRATUITOUSLY TO ASSOCIATE PRESIDENT'S VISIT WITH TOXIC OIL PROBLEM. ISTIQLAL PRESS IS REPORTED READY TO RETURN TO PUBLISHING FIELD THIS WEEK AND IS PREPARED GIVE FULL AIRING ALL ASPECTS OIL SCANDAL. THUS PROBLEM COULD STILL DEVELOP IN WAY EMBARRASSING TO US AND THE LESS ATTENTION DRAWN TO IT THE BETTER AT THIS PARTICULARLY AMICABLE AND HOPEFUL MOMENT. EMBASSY HOPES HOWEVER THAT US CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE SOON AFTER PRESIDENT'S VISIT. NO OBJECTION THEN FULL PUBLICITY THESE EFFORTS. ADVANTAGE THIS LATER TIMING WOULD BE LIKELIHOOD BETTER PUBLICITY THAN COULD BE EXPECTED AT MOMENT OF PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL WHEN PRESS ATTENTION FOCUSED ON HIM.

YOST

VHD: DGH/20

*Told Red Cross
& E/CDS Locke*CONFIDENTIAL

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871.55/12-1559

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34

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Action

Control:
Rec'd:

10699

December 15, 1959

11:51 p.m.

AF

FROM: Geneva

Info

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 986, December 15, 6 p.m.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 986; REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 150, RABAT 24

Reference: Rabat's 1219 to Department repeated information Geneva 32, Paris 511; Paris 199 to Rabat repeated Department 2708, Geneva 86.

Law of June 25, 1938 found in French text volume 30 Part 2 of bulletin of International Office Public Hygiene pages 2714 to 2735 (bulletin number 12 December 1938).

Since Morocco was member International Office Public Hygiene suggest bulletin might be found in files Moroccan Ministry Public Health.

If Rabat desires photocopy of 1938 Act (together with such amendments as RESDEL may be able track down) please notify Geneva. Photocopy would cost approximately \$6.

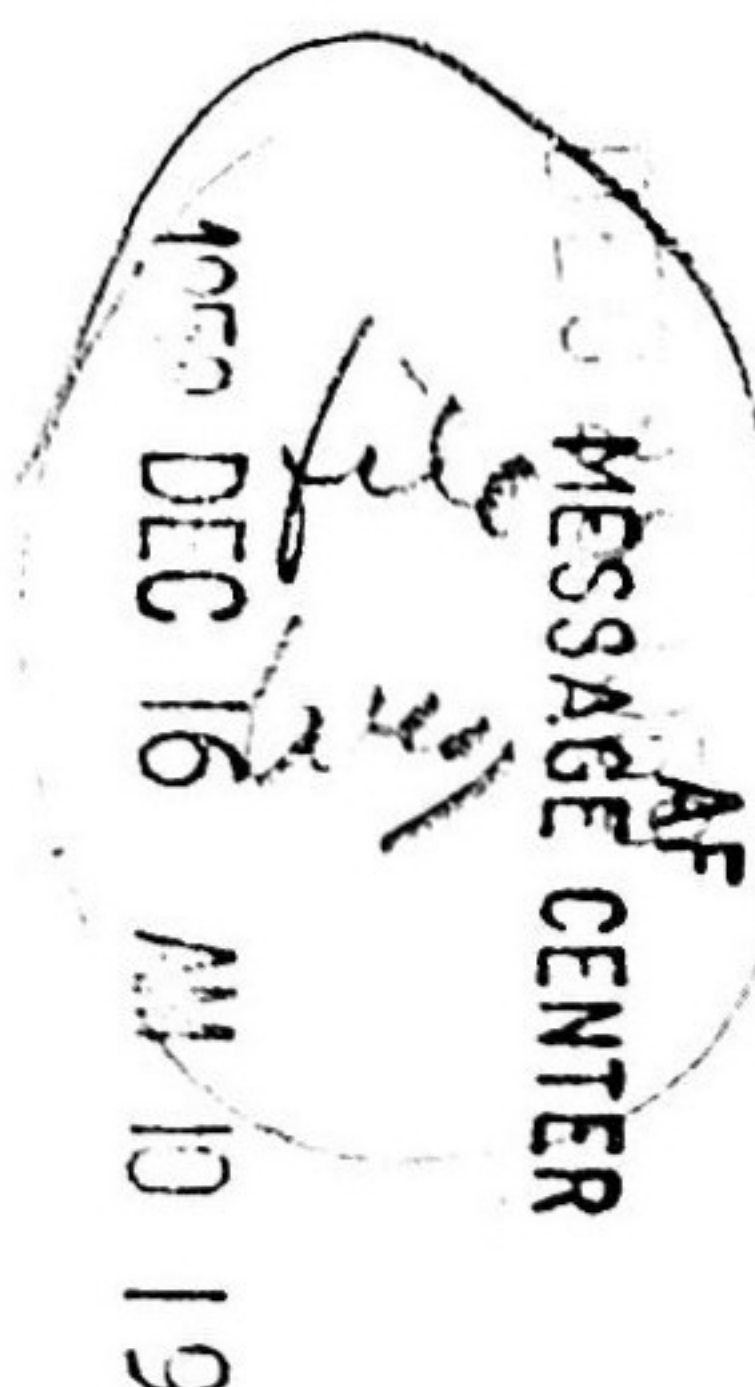
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871.55/12-15-59

53

Action

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Classification

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

AF
InfoDate Sent: 16 December 1959
Rec'd:

FROM: US RESDEL & CONGEN GENEVA

TO: SECSTATE WASHINGTON
RPTD INFO: Amembassy RABAT (cc)
NO: G-99EUR
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Moroccan Paralysis Victims

Press release of League of Red Cross Societies (LICROSS) dated December 15 states that number of countries announcing Red Cross contributions in form of services of medical personnel, hospital material or in cash, on behalf Morocco's paralysis victims, has reached 18 with aid announced by National Red Cross Societies Australia, Ireland and Lebanon.

Cable of Australian Red Cross states that "substantial contribution will be announced by them shortly.

Irish Red Cross announces gift of funds 500 to be used for purchase hospital material.

Lebanese Red Cross announces provision of 150 hospital beds, with mattresses.

According press release, 15 National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies previously announcing contributions are those of Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, German Federal Republic, Great Britain, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and USA.

League's recapitulation of Red Cross aid announced to date shows:

That services of 10 doctors specialized in physical medicine have been contributed by seven National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey;

That services of 25 of 30 physiotherapists sought have been contributed by the nine National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies of Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey;

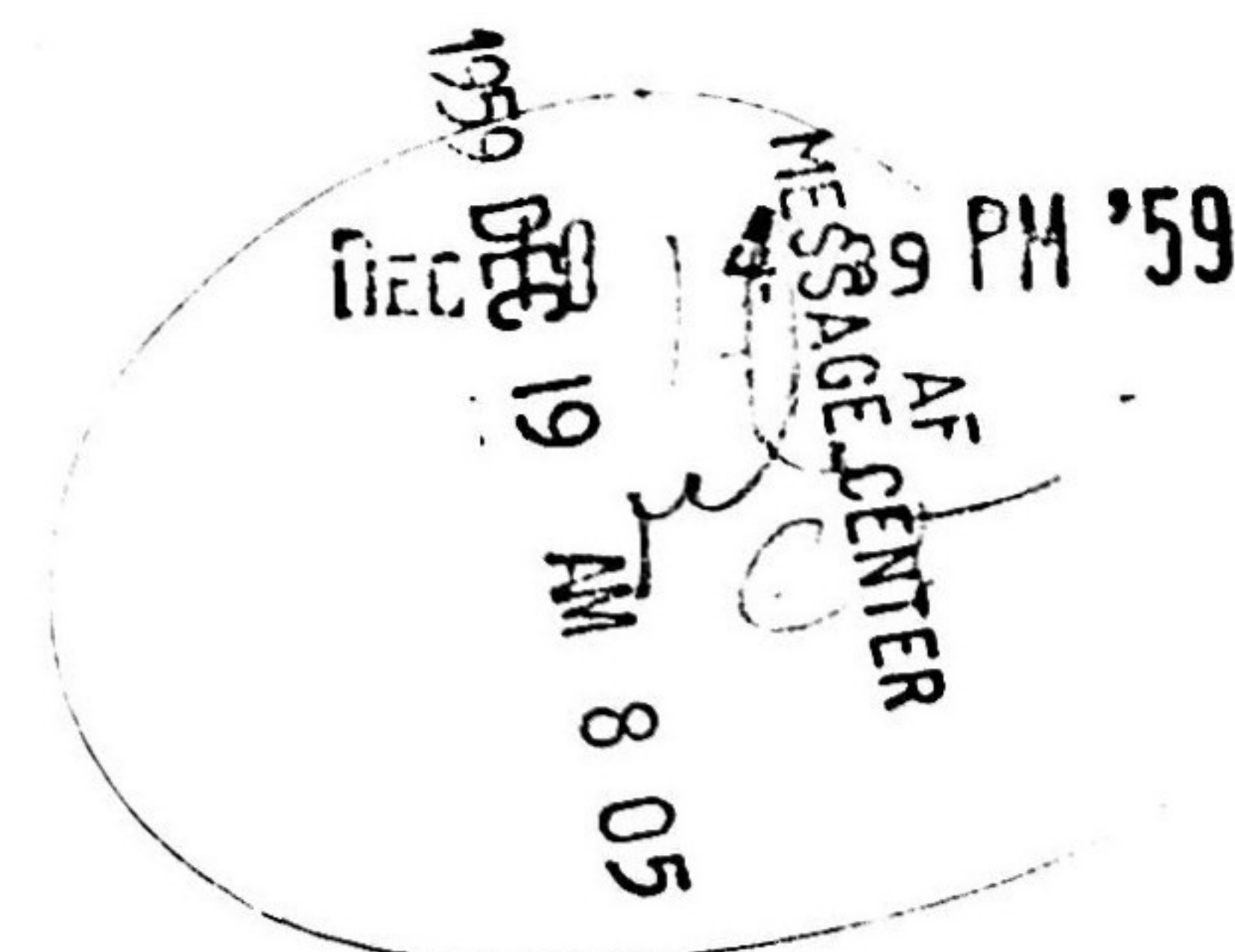
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871. 55-12-1659


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That 1,840 of 2,400 hospital beds have been made available by six National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies of Austria, Finland, German Federal Republic, Lebanon, Sweden and Turkey;

That 600 of the 1,840 hospital beds - or one-third - have already been delivered in Morocco by airlifts of German Federal Republic and US Air Forces (beds provided by Austrian, Finnish and German Federal Republic Red Cross Societies);

That a further 760 fully-equipped hospital beds - provided by Swedish Red Cross - of total of 1,840 are enroute to Casablanca by sea, and scheduled arrive in two shipments, at that Moroccan port, on December 22 and January 1, respectively. (Weight of Swedish shipments is 42 tons).

VILLARD



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59-51

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Control: 12257

Rec'd: December 17, 1958
3:30 p.m.

FROM: Geneva

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 998, December 17, 8 p.m.

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 998, PRIORITY RABAT 27.

MOROCCAN TOXICOIL

Dunning and Schaeffer of LICROSS have appealed to RESDEL for assistance in following situation.

Relying on continued cooperation of USAF in providing airlifts LICROSS has arranged for assembly in Zurich December 22 at 1500 hours of 13 tons equipment consisting of (A) 90 adjustable hospital beds with mattresses contributed by East German Red Cross, (B) 1700 pillows and 650 mattresses specially manufactured in Switzerland to fit US military beds from stocks in Vienna which believed actually being airlifted from Vienna to Morocco today.

Dunning received telephone call this afternoon from Elsey AMCROSS Washington stating Department was conducting review of situation apparently in consideration of Rabat's 1291 to Department repeated information Geneva 35; pending completion of review all airlift requests being put in suspense.

This action poses difficult and delicate problem for LICROSS. Immediate question is how to arrange onward shipment of material already being assembled in Zurich. (East German Red Cross truck convoy believed to be on its way through FEDREP.) In addition beds now being airlifted from Vienna will be useless without mattresses designed for them.

Apart from embarrassment to LICROSS vis-a-vis East German Red Cross, seems to RESDEL embarrassment might also result to US since East

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*Informed Elsey of
gist, and our reco.
inadvisability of assisting*

971.57/12-1750

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-2- 998, December 17, 8 p.m. from Geneva

since East German RC aware of previous USAF airlifts and plans for airlift in question. Hardly likely East Germans would not draw wrong conclusions from failure go through with plans. Without disagreeing with views expressed in Rabat's 1251 to Department regarding field hospitals, RESDEL wonders whether airlift assistance should be affected by those considerations.

Dunning would appreciate gist of foregoing being conveyed to Elsey of AMCROSS.

VILLARD

MLJ:TR/10

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Action

Control: 13209
Rec'd: December 18, 1959
7:42 p.m.AF
Info

FROM: Rabat

TO: Secretary of State

SS

NO: 1285, December 18, 7 p.m.

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LONDON PASS FOR CINCNELM

Embassy telegram 1251.

Toxic Oil Relief Needs

GOM studying its relief needs in connection toxic oil disaster and will advise Embassy of conclusions when these formulated. Embassy preparing complete review this disaster, recommendations. Meanwhile, however, Cabinet Director to Public Health Ministry, Benyakhlef and Dr. Laraki, same Ministry, who also on executive committee Moroccan Red Crescent, advised Embassy December 17 country's most urgent, immediate needs, as follows: 10,000 each: Suits underwear (tops, bottoms), sweaters, wool blankets, pajamas, pairs wool stockings.

Benyakhlef explained victims paralysis beginning suffer from exposure in cold, wet season now in full swing here. Treatment centers being established (many under canvas) lack supplies and GOM unable meet needs.

Embassy recommends US provide items requested; ship by air. Perhaps American Red Cross, other private agencies, able assist. Speed essential. If Red Cross able help, assistance should be channeled through Licross.

Please advise urgently what response Embassy may make to Benyakhlef. If Embassy advised US able meet need will ask

GOM

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-2- 1285, December 18 7 p.m. from Rabat

GOM Ministry Public Health formalize request.

Re Geneva's 920 to Department, approach reveals GOM would be grateful for field hospital (S) should it become possible to make it available.

— should be 974

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VH:RH/6

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31
Action
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PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGESDate Sent: 18 December 1959
Rec'd:FROM: US RESDEL & CONGEN GENEVA
TO: SECSTATE WASHINGTON
NO: G-100
RE: Moroccan Paralysis Victims

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League of Red Cross Societies reports that one of two USAF aircraft carrying out fifth airlift of Red Cross hospital material had arrived in Rabat; other aircraft had taken off Dec 18 to pick up supplies but had been forced by weather conditions to turn back.

35 tons hospital beds and blankets being airlifted by two aircraft will bring to 1,350 the number of Red Cross hospital beds airlifted to Morocco since Dec 1 for use in rehabilitation centers going into operation for paralysis victims before end December. In five airlifts to date, including present one, total of nine German Federal Republic Air Force planes and five USAF planes have been placed at disposal of League.

15 tons hospital beds (650 beds) being airlifted from Vienna are from the League's emergency relief warehouse there, while 20 tons blankets and bedding are gift through Austrian Red Cross. Austrian Army and police trucks have been mobilized by Austrian Red Cross, along with its own vehicles, to move hospital material to Schwechat Airport on outskirts Vienna.

Action transferred to AFN-M. Stokes 12/21/59
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
OES - HE Dougherty
VILLARD

1959 DEC 22 AM 7 50
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AF JAN 6 1960

CHOWsley: jjs

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Action

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Info

FROM: Geneva

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1008, December 21, 11 a.m.

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 1008, Rabat 30

Rabat's 1285 to Department repeated information Geneva 99.

Moroccan toxic oil

LICROSS reports needs listed reference telegram have been met or are being met through National Red Cross societies to following extent:

(A) 9,000 blankets already supplied.

(B) Underwear and pajamas: 5,000 each promised and to be shipped soonest.

(C) Sweaters and stockings: None requested by LICROSS.

Resident delegate queried LICROSS whether it safe say foregoing items could be counted on and therefore unnecessary procure through US sources. LICROSS replied affirmatively. Although LICROSS has not attempted procure sweaters and stockings it concurs their usefulness and hopes US can supply.

Re Geneva's 998 to Department repeated Rabat 27, LICROSS informed December 19 by AMCROSS Washington airlift planned for December 22 definitely out. According AMCROSS reason for this decision is question of ability Moroccan authorities "absorb" material. LICROSS pointed out again (see reference telegram) beds already in Morocco and useless without mattresses. In any case LICROSS now endeavoring get airlift from FEDREP.

BB:FAK-5

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Control: 13924
Rec'd: December 21, 1959
6:41 a.m.

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INCOMING AIRGRAM

Department of State

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PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

Date Sent: Dec 23, 1959

1000 JAN 5 AM 8 09

Info FROM: US RESDEL & CONGEN GENEVA

SS TO: SECSTATE WASHINGTON

INR RPTD INFO: Amembassy RABAT (cc) ACTION

AF NO: G-106

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Moroccan Toxic Oil Victims

Recapitulation by League Red Cross Societies as of Dec 19, 1959 of aid to victims of oil poisoning in Morocco announced in response League's appeals shows contributions on part 19 National Red Cross, Red Crescent or Red Lion and Sun Societies: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, German Federal Republic, Great Britain, Iran Ireland, Lebanon, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and USA.

Contributions include following:

Provision of services of 10 doctors specialized in physical medicine and physiotherapy, by seven National RCross or RCrescent Societies of Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey;

Provision of services of 27 of 30 physiotherapists, by ten National RCross or RCrescent Societies of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey;

Provision of 2,580 hospital beds by seven National RCross or RCrescent Societies of Austria (100), Finland (100), GDR (90), German FED REP (400), Lebanon (450), Sweden (760) and Turkey (30) and from League stocks (Vienna warehouse) (650).

In addition League reported contribution 13 1/2 tons mattresses, pillows and pillow-cases, sheets, night-shirts, etc. by Swiss Red Cross, 107 cases Canadian RCross clothing and bedding from League warehouses in Europe and direct from Canada, and 50 cases League bedding from its warehouse near Geneva.

AF MESSAGE CENTER
JAN 6 1960

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871.55/12-1-55-5

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As of Dec 19, 1959 Air Forces of USA and FED REP Germany, using 14 air cargo transports, have airlifted to Rabat 1,250 hospital beds and other hospital material.

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*OK**CH*
CHOWsley:jjj

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CONFIDENTIALControl: 17755
Rec'd: December 28, 1959
6:46 p.m.

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Document must be returned
to the RM/R Central FilesAF
Info

FROM: Rabat

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1335, December 28, 7 p.m.

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HSENT DEPARTMENT 1335, REPEATED INFORMATION GENEVA 42, BONN
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EMBTel 1279 and Geneva telegram 1008 to Department.

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Embassy hopes airlifts can continue. Today marks commencement two weeks campaign throughout Morocco raise funds and collect other contributions for oil victims, so most opportune now for airlifts and arrivals American supplies. Supplies listed in EMBTEL 1285 which not being furnished by other sources mentioned Geneva's 1008 can now be absorbed by GOM, Embassy believes, and Embassy urges provision and airlift soonest. Mattresses should also be shipped soonest.

YOST

RSP:TR/10

for Red Cross
360 doz union suits } children
200 doz sweat shirts } size

1959 DEC 29 PM 7 14
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871.55/12-2859

CNA

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

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871.55/12-2859

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Origin

SENT TO: Amembassy RABAT
RPTD INFO: GENEVA

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Info:

Embtel 1335 and 1285.

American Red Cross informs Dept that it recruiting two nurses for service Morocco to be sent near future. Am Junior Red Cross has authorized shipment to Morocco from its warehouses in Switzerland 200 dozen sweat shirts valued at \$1,500 and 360 dozen union suits valued at \$3,240, both items in children's sizes. Both nurses and clothing being handled through LICROSS channels. Red Cross states blankets not stockpiled here and in any case are twice as expensive as in Europe but will continue investigate possibility supply additional clothing.

Re field hospitals, one has been located with U.S. Army in Europe which could be released, but cost of \$319,000 is prohibitive. Since complete inventory of field hospital includes many items which probably excess to minimum needs in Morocco, LICROSS might better request component parts considered essential for Moroccan operation. Am Red Cross so informing LICROSS. Dept would then be in better position assess possibility of finding a source of supply.

Herter (wp)

HERTER

Drafted by:

AFN: CWThomas: jej 12/29/59

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

AFN - Mr. Porter

Clearances:

ICA:O/VFA - Mr. McCahon (by phone)

OR:CSD - Mr. Brandon (by phone)

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Rec'd: December 18, 1959
1:31 p.m.

FROM:Rabat

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1279, December 28, 4 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 1279, REPEATED INFORMATION GENEVA 37, CASABLANCA
TANGIER UNNUMBERED.

Re Geneva's 998 to Department repeated Rabat 27, Embassy does
not feel considerations its telegram 1251 to Department should
in any way preclude USAF airlift assistance. Our primary
concern is that U.S. contribution when decided upon is in
response to ihal* requirement and be timed to maximize impact.

YOST

AAL:RV/8

*As received. Will be serviced upon request.

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INCOMING AIRGRAM

Department of State

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PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

Date Sent:

Rec'd:

Dec 30, 1959

FROM: US RESDEL & CONGEN GENEVA

TO: SECSTATE WASHINGTON

Amembassy RABAT (cc)

NO: G-114

RE: Moroccan Paralysis Victims

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Latest recapitulation (Dec 24 1959) by League of Red Cross Societies of offers by National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies of services of medical personnel for care of victims of paralysis in Morocco is as follows:

Australia: 2 physiotherapists; Austria: 1 nurse; Canada: 2 doctors, 4 physiotherapists; Denmark: 1 doctor, 2 physiotherapists; Finland: 1 doctor, 1 physiotherapist; France: 2 physiotherapists; German Federal Republic: 4 nurses; Great Britain: 4 physiotherapists; The Netherlands: 1 doctor, 2 physiotherapists; Norway: 1 doctor, 1 physiotherapist; Sweden: 2 doctors, 5 physiotherapists; Switzerland: 1 doctor, 4 physiotherapists, 1 nurse; Turkey: 2 doctors, 2 physiotherapists, 2 nurses.

The League has also announced that German Federal Republic Air Force began on Dec 23 sixth and final international airlift of Red Cross hospital materiel to Morocco, with flying of 3.5 tons supplies from Zurich to Rabat. Initial air transport arrived late Dec 23 in Rabat. Three further aircraft of German Federal Republic Air Force, on 28 Dec and again on 4 January are to terminate airlift in question. Mattresses and bedding airlifted Dec 23 were specially manufactured by Swiss Red Cross for use with 650 hospital beds flown to Morocco last week by US Air Force transport aircraft from League emergency stores at Vienna. USAF was to have transported mattresses and bedding as well but upon issuance of stop order on further airlifts by USAF, services of German Air Force were procured.

In six airlifts provided League for speeding hospital materiel to Morocco for paralysis victims, total of 13 German Federal Republic Air Force "Nord-Atlas" planes and 5 US Air Force "Globemasters" were assigned. Arrangements for American AF transports which carried nearly 60 tons hospital materiel and German AF transports, carrying 40 tons material, to be

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placed at disposal of League, were undertaken by American and German Federal Republic Red Cross Societies, respectively.

Cable from President Gueorgui Miterev of Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of USSR announced Dec 24 gift by Alliance of 1,000 blankets, 2.5 tons sugar and 7,500 tins condensed milk. Gift from Soviet Red Cross is 20th to be made in response to League's appeal for aid on behalf of paralysis victims.

Owsley

CHowsley:jjjs

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